

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 34794 300613Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 /017 W
-----300617Z 028257 /20
R 300541Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7677
INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

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FOR S/NM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN, SNAR, TH, US
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION COMMANDER REQUESTS FLAK VESTS

REF: CHIANG MAI 469

1. REFTEL REPEATED BELOW FOR S/NM IN EVENT THAT OFFICE
COULD PROCURE REQUESTED FLAK VESTS. JUSMAGTHAI HAS NONE
AND IS PRECLUDED BY EXISTING LEGISLATION FROM PROVIDING
SUCH ASSISTANCE.

2. TEXT CHIANG MAI 469: "1. BPP REGIONAL III COMMANDER
MJ. GENERAL WICHAI, HAS ASKED IF THE USG COULD PROVIDE 50
FLAK VESTS FOR USE BY BPP TROOPS DURING NARCOTICS
SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS. AS NARCOTICS STOCKS BUILD UP IN
THE BORDER AREAS, THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT REFINERY AND
STORAGE SITES ARE INCREASINGLY WELL DEFENDED AND THAT
THE DEFENDERS ARE WILLING TO FIGHT. WE BELIEVE THAT FLAK
VESTS MIGHT PROVE TO BE A USEFUL INCENTIVE IF THEY COULD
BE ISSUED TO BPP TROOPS TAKING PART IN RAIDS ON SUCH
SITES.

"2. IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH VESTS MIGHT BE
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FOUND IN US MILITARY SURPLUS STOCKS, AND IF SO, IS THERE
A SOURCE OF FUNDING WHICH WOULD ALLOW US TO OBTAIN THE
VESTS AND PASS THEM ON TO THE BPP? THE COSTS OF SUCH
A PRESENTATION WOULD BE MINIMAL, BUT WOULD DO MUCH TO
ENHANCE U.S. RAPPORT WITH THE GENERAL AND HIS OFFICERS
AS WELL AS ENCOURAGE THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR RECENT

INCREASED AGGRESSIVENESS IN ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS."
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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